



Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office

Progress in Vietnam as of February 7, 2005

Current Status of Unaccounted-for Americans Lost in the Vietnam War

	<u>Vietnam</u>	<u>Laos</u>	<u>Cambodia</u>	<u>China</u>	<u>Total</u>
Original Missing	1,921	569	83	10	2,583
Repatriated and Identified	<u>518</u>	<u>192</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>741</u>
Remaining Missing	1,403	377	55	7	1,842

Of the remaining 1,403 Americans still unaccounted for in the country of Vietnam, 620 are in a “no further pursuit” status, meaning that as a result of rigorous investigation we have conclusive evidence the individual perished, but do not believe it possible to recover his remains.

Repatriating and Identifying Remains

- The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command normally conducts four Joint Field Activities (JFAs) per year in Vietnam.
- Each JFA involves approximately 95 U.S. personnel plus their Vietnamese counterparts. Together, they work on investigations and excavations throughout the country for a period of approximately 30 days.
- American remains are transferred to the Central Identification Lab in Hawaii for positive identification by forensic anthropologists.
- The 79th JFA ran from October 17 – November 19, 2004. Recovery teams excavated sites in Quang Binh, Lang Son, Thanh Hoa, and Son La Provinces.
- The 80th JFA is scheduled for March 3 – April 4, 2005. Recovery teams plan to excavate sites in Son La, Nghe An, Khanh Hoa, Binh Phuoc, and Ca Mau Provinces.

Resolving “Last Known Alive” Cases

- Of the original 196 individuals “Last Known Alive” in Vietnam (those who might have survived their loss incidents, but did not return), DoD has determined the fate of 162, with 34 still unresolved.
- Of the 162 whose fate has been determined, the remains of 48 have been located and identified.

Research and Investigations

- The Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs, Mr. Jerry Jennings, met with senior Vietnamese officials in June 2004 to follow-up on proposals made during previous visits. Among the significant accomplishments of the 2004 visit was an agreement to gain access to capital area archives and the return of U.S. personnel to the Central Highlands.
- Another meeting between representatives of Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and the United States to foster open dialogue in seeking solutions to account for missing Americans took place in July 2004 in Cambodia. The first meeting of the four countries was held in Bangkok in October 2003.
- U.S., Vietnam, and Cambodia technical experts met in Hanoi in November to discuss Last Known Alive cases along the Cambodia – Vietnam border.
- Beyond the several hundred interviews conducted during JFAs, U.S. and Vietnamese investigators have conducted nearly 300 oral history interviews of Vietnamese government and military officials.
- Each year, Vietnamese teams conduct unilateral investigations during two special periods. These investigations include both witness interviews and archival research.
- Since Vietnamese troops occupied portions of Laos and Cambodia during the War, we’ve asked them to cooperate in investigations there. Approximately 50 Vietnamese witnesses have participated in operations in Laos and Cambodia; most of them have participated more than once.